

# the chronicle

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AND ADRIAN IS  
STARTING A DIARY**

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## Tails up for big success

THERE was no wuff justice when a Cookley team of dogs and their handlers finished top of their group in a national sporting competition.

The Kiddy Minsters were winners of Division 21 at the British Flyball Championships at Aubury Hall, near Nuneaton.

Flyball is a sport for dogs who race as a relay team of four over a set of jumps to retrieve a tennis ball and then run back to the handler, followed by the next dog.

Team captain Stuart Milton said: "This is a fantastic achievement for such a small club."

"None of the dogs put a paw wrong all day, which is a credit to the dog handlers and the club trainers."

Mr Milton and dog Harvey along with Karen Milton and Tegan, Louise Mason and Mac, Melanie Young and Flyte, Glyn Evans and Harvey and Rob Bolus and Abby won 15 of 16 races.

They also took the division with the fastest time of 19.3 seconds.

The British Championships is the largest flyball show in Europe with more than 250 teams and more than 1,500 dogs.

## Last few days to consult

THERE are just a few more days left for residents to give their views on the future of leisure centres in the district.

Wyre Forest District Council is conducting an online questionnaire to find out what residents think. The consultation ends on Sunday (September 11).

The options are to build one new leisure centre for the district; to close Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre and to transfer the management of Stourport Sports Centre and Bewdley Leisure Centre to the local community or other organisations.

The recommendations have come about as a result of a review. Questionnaires are online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk) or can be picked up from the leisure centres, Worcestershire Hub or district libraries.



Matthew Baker is flying the flag for England

## Matthew for Wembley

THE DREAMS of a Bewdley youngster were due to come true on Tuesday when he walked out alongside Wayne Rooney, John Terry and their teammates at the home of football.

Ten-year-old Matthew Baker won the chance to be an official mascot for England's crucial Euro 2012 qualifier against Wales at Wembley after entering a national competition.

Matthew was forced to wait for his big moment after originally being scheduled to be a mascot for the friendly encounter at home to Holland in August.

That match was cancelled because of riots in London.

However all 22 youngsters from that postponed

match were transferred by The FA and sponsors McDonald's to the Wales game, so no-one was left disappointed.

The match was taking place as the Chronicle went to press, but before his special day Matthew said: "I was disappointed when I heard that the England v Holland game had been cancelled."

"But walking out with the England players against Wales is amazing and I can't wait."

### Jealous

"I love football and so this is a dream prize for me. All of my friends are so jealous!"

Sir Geoff Hurst, McDonald's director of football and England's hat-trick hero in their 1966 World Cup win, added: "It is a great experience to be walking out on the pitch at Wembley stadium and one Matthew will never forget, especially with such great players on display."

# TAKEOVER DEAL SAVES BRINTONS

**M**ORE than 1,600 jobs at an historic Kidderminster carpet firm have been saved after it was bought in a £40million deal following weeks of talks.

Brintons would have gone out of business had a new investor not been found.

The crisis came as accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers were brought in to try to find £20m of funding needed by the company.

Bosses have now announced that Brintons has been bought out by American firm The Carlyle Group after talks began three weeks ago.

The buyers will take on the £20m debts and invest a further £20m.

Brintons managing director Don Coates said: "It was vital to find a buyer to avoid the total collapse of the company, which would have left 1,670 staff redundant."

"When we evaluated the 30-plus offers for the company, this was by far the best. If we had not taken this action the company would not have been able to continue trading."

The deal signals the end of a 228-year line of family members who inherited the business. It employs about 700 people in Kidderminster and Telford, and the rest at worldwide branches.

### COMMERCIAL

It was established by William Brinton in 1783 and makes carpets for the residential and commercial markets.

The takeover has been welcomed as "brilliant news" for the local area.

Industry figures, councillors and an MP have all expressed their relief that

the world-famous name will continue trading.

Mark Garnier, MP for Wyre Forest, said he was "delighted" that the buy-out had now gone through.

He added: "Times are tough and sometimes businesses like Brintons need extra cash to help them survive."

"Sometimes this cannot be raised but I am delighted that a company has helped secure Brintons' future for future generations. It is very important for the town to keep this historic firm. I have been speaking to Brintons and I have been reassured that all jobs are safe. This is brilliant news."

Charles Talbot, secretary of Kidderminster's Carpet Museum Trust, said it was a "fact of life" that some family companies would need outside help.

Mr Talbot, whose ancestors founded one of the town's early carpet manufacturing firms, G and H Talbot and Sons, in 1735, said: "My family sold their business after 134 years so I am well aware that these things happen."

"Some changes will undoubtedly occur at Brintons now but the important point is that the name will remain. People must not forget that Kidderminster is known worldwide for its carpets and firms like Brintons need to keep that going."

Wyre Forest District Council leader John Campion said: "Any steps that local companies can take to secure jobs is very important."

## Heroes for the day



Salon staff in fancy dress

SUPERHEROES swapped their special powers for curling tongs when they descended on a hair salon to help raise £600 for charity. Wonder Woman, Miss Incredible and Spider-Woman were some of the personas adopted by staff at Salon Hair and Beauty, on Birmingham Road, Blake-down, for a day of fundraising last Friday. Employees also dressed as cartoon characters to raise money for the cancer ward at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

## Crush fears as trains change

RAIL campaigners say that Kidderminster commuters travelling to Birmingham now face daily crush conditions after an early-morning service was withdrawn.

As part of a new timetable Chiltern Railways ran its 6.30am Kidderminster to Birmingham Moor Street train – which had 275 seats – for the final time last week. Kidderminster passengers can use an alternative London Midland service at 6.36am, but that only has 222 places.

Kevin Chapman, from the West Midlands Campaign for Better Transport, said the decision was a mistake.

"This is a totally unacceptable move and it makes a mockery of the commitment expressed by the Government to get more people to use the train," Mr Chapman added.

### Strain

"Undoubtedly some passengers will find using the train too much of a strain and conclude using their car is more reliable and comfortable than the 'sardine special' with its spiralling fares – or is that the plan?"

Commuters from Stourbridge are also affected as the old and new services both stop at Stourbridge Junction.

Chiltern Railways spokeswoman Emma Gascoigne said: "We are continuing to run more services than our franchise requires us to provide for Kidderminster."

"We have worked closely with London Midland to identify how we can ensure Kidderminster is well served by train services."

## Speedway is up for sale

BIRMINGHAM Speedway owner Tony Mole has announced the club is up for sale.

The Kidderminster businessman, of R and D Aggregates Ltd, revived the sport in the city in 2007 after an absence of over 20-years.

He will listen to offers but wants to see the club remain in the Elite League – the sport's top flight – next season.



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## Share a supper with food lovers

FOOD campaigners are set to meet in Bewdley later this month.

The next meeting of the Transition Bewdley Food Group is on Thursday, September 15 from 7-9.30pm at Haye Farm off Heighington Road, Ribbesford, Bewdley (DY12 2TP).

Anyone is welcome to take along a home-cooked dish or local food and enjoy a walk and shared supper in the Sleeping Barn. Details: www.haye-farm.co.uk

# Town throws open the doors of history to show off its heritage

KIDDERMINSTER is throwing open some of its celebrated buildings on Saturday in its Heritage Open Days event.

The event is being co-ordinated locally by Kidderminster Heritage Opportunities Group to encourage visitors to see as many as possible of Kidderminster's historic treasures.

Nick Hughes, of the group, said: "In recent years we have run this at the same time as the National Heritage Open Days Weekend and liaised with all the town's participants so that we could publicise together and look to ensure that the events and timetables complemented each other."

## It's looking good for eye check

RESIDENTS aged over 50 can get free eye health checks at Stourport Library.

The offer is part of the Eyes Right campaign run with Sight Concern.

Following a successful session last month, Eyes Right will be back at the library in Worcester Street on Tuesday, October 4, from 1-3pm to provide free checks for the 50-plus age group.

Experts will also be on hand to offer residents advice on eye health and healthy eating.

Library manager Maureen Hobbs said: "This is a brilliant opportunity for free eye health advice."

"More than 50 per cent of vision loss in the UK is avoidable so a five-minute check could save your sight."

For more information visit the website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries) or call 01905 822722.

Caldwall Castle, next to the fire station, is Kidderminster's oldest secular building. A single stone tower remains from the four-towered and moated castle which dates from 1347 – billed as a must for anyone who hasn't yet seen its interior.

This year, after a break in 2010, Kidderminster Town Hall will be open for guided tours and visitors will have a rare opportunity to see the Mayor's parlour, bell tower and cellar network.

Other rooms to open are the council chamber, court room and music room featuring an organ recital.

## Peg

The Carpet Museum Trust and Weaver's Shed (next to Morrisons) will be laying on peg board and spinning demonstrations and Melvyn Thompson will lead carpet history walks from 11am and 2pm.

St Mary's Church and the New Meeting Church will be open on Friday and Saturday.

St George's Church is open on Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday a "Worship for Harvest" event is being held outside Kidderminster Town Hall at 11am.

## Thatcher, Duran Duran – and Adrian



The family Mole – Marika Farr as Pauline, Hilary Thompson (Grandma), Alex Powell as Adrian and Bob Graham as George



Pauline gets close to Mr Lucas (Alan Minaker)



Slave to love – besotted teenager Adrian has eyes only for his beloved Pandora (Charlotte Moseley)

IT'S a blast from the past as The Nonentities open their new season at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, based on Sue Townsend's best-selling books, is an unabashed, pimple-and-all glimpse into the troubled life of an adolescent.

The play, running from September 12-17, presents a candid view about the marital troubles of the Mole parents, the family dog and Adrian's life as a tortured poet and "misunderstood intellectual".

The year is 1984, Margaret Thatcher is in power, the Olympics

open in Los Angeles, the space shuttle Discovery is launched on its first mission, Duran Duran start their World Tour – and Adrian starts his diary.

Follow him through a world of firsts; his first school disco, his first crush, old people, bullying, his parents' separation and even his first kiss (although he would prefer it if you didn't).

With music, poetry, fights, tears and laughter it promises to be a cracking start to the new season.

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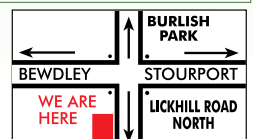
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## Creative writing for budding authors

BUDDING authors are invited to join a new creative writing course at Bewdley Library this autumn.

The 10-week county council course is designed to be an interesting and fun way to help writers find their voice and develop their writing skills.

It is part of a range of courses on offer from the authority's adult learning team.

The group will be given the opportunity to share ideas, learn how to give constructive feedback and become better, more objective critics of their own work.

### Reasons

Janey Hewitt, former co-editor of Questions Publishing Ltd, will lead the course and is inviting potential writers to an informal meeting on Thursday, September 15 (10am-noon) to discuss any questions that arise.

She said: "People join the course for all sorts of reasons."

"Some people want help with their work before they submit it for publication, others want to develop their writing."

"I want to help people to develop their writing," she added.

"But I also want them to enjoy themselves."

The course will start on Thursday, September 22 (10am-noon) and the cost is £85.

For details, visit the library or contact staff by calling 01905 822 722 or email: bewdleylib@worces

tershire.gov.uk

## Check out the singer on X Factor



Supermarket worker Sarah Wills from Kidderminster who will appear on X Factor

A SUPERMARKET worker from the Midlands is hoping to prove she has the X Factor when she appears on the popular TV talent show in the coming weeks.

Twenty-one-year-old Sarah Wills from Kidderminster is thought to have been given a unanimous vote through to boot camp by the show's judges during auditions held in Birmingham earlier this year.

The customer service adviser at the Tesco store in Castle Street, Kidderminster, was the very first contestant to appear before the new panel of judges, made up of Take

That star Gary Barlow, Destiny's Child singer Kelly Rowland, N-Dubz star Tulisa Contostavlos and Louis Walsh.

The former King Charles I pupil performed the song One Night Only, which seemed to go down very well with the judging panel.

The budding singer, who has worked for Tesco for three years, said: "I have been singing all my life. My favourites are Beyonce, Etta James and Tina Turner."

She added: "I was terrified before the audition but I hope it has paid off."

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thechronicle

## Take the heritage trail in canal town

### Historic venues open to public

HISTORIC venues in Stourport will open their doors on Saturday and Sunday as part of National Heritage Open Days Weekend.

Every year thousands of buildings of all ages, styles and functions open to give visitors a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy sometimes hidden places – completely free.

English Heritage gives central co-ordination and a national voice to the event.

Venues to open in Stourport include the Canal Basins, St Michael's Church, Stourport Methodist Church and Stourport Masonic Hall in Severn Road.

#### Scorpio

On Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4pm visitors to Stourport Canal Basins will be able to explore a British Waterways heritage working boat, Scorpio, which will be moored there.

British Waterways volunteers will be available to talk about what it was like to live and work on a canal boat in times past.

All three heritage rooms will be open to the public. At Discover Stourport (Sa Bridge Street) visitors can find out more about the town's history. Families and visitors will also be able to take a short Heritage Trail.

Both the Old Ticket Office Heritage Room (in York Street) and the Tontine Stable Heritage Room (next to the Windlass Café/Restaurant) will be open and volunteers will be available to talk about the history of Stourport and the growth of the town as a canal



Pauline Annis, who chairs Stourport Forward, at the Discover Stourport Heritage Room preparing for the weekend

port. Stourport Masonic Hall will open its doors from 10am to 3pm on Sunday, providing a rare opportunity to view a range of Masonic memorabilia covering the last 100 years of freemasonry. Visitors will also be offered a guided tour of the building.

Some of Stourport's historic churches will also open. Although under repair, St Michael's Church and graveyard, Church Drive, will be open on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4pm. St Michael's is set in tranquil gardens within the walls of the previous church – there has been a church

on the site since Saxon times. Volunteers will be available to talk about the history of the church and graveyard.

Stourport Methodist Church, off Stourport High Street, will welcome visitors and will open its Oasis coffee bar from 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, preached there in 1788. Decorative glass doors depict Stourport.

Pauline Annis, who chairs Stourport Forward, said: "This is a great opportunity to learn more about Stourport's unique and fascinating history." More details: [www.stourporttown.co.uk](http://www.stourporttown.co.uk)

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# Shows selling out at town's festival

SEVERAL shows for Bewdley Festival have sold out with organisers reporting record sales over the first few weeks.

The Manfreds, Gyles Brandreth, Fascinating Aida, and broadcaster Adam Henson have sold out. Just a handful of tickets remain for folk band Show of Hands, and Alan Price. But tickets are still available for Mark Steel, touring his popular Radio 4 comedy show "Mark Steel's in Town"; Sir Richard Rodney Bennett and Claire Martin presenting the Irving Berlin Songbook and the dramatisation of the letters between Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh, Dearest Nancy, Darling Evelyn.

Most tickets for the daytime offerings usually go much nearer the festival, which runs from October 7-16. But two local speakers have proved popular with Max Keen sold out and only a few tickets remaining for Richard Perrin.

Other daytime events include Beth Williamson talking on Mirrors in Art; Simon Topman discussing The Birmingham Whistle and Anthony Collis talking on Inn Signs and Pub Names.

## Stamps

Confessions of an Artist will see painter and cartoonist Geoff Tristram talk about his work which includes advertisements, postage stamps and commissions for the famous.

Two big names in the daytime programme are guitarist Martin Simpson and performance poet Murray Lachlan-Young.

Traditional Worcestershire poet and novelist Francis Brett Young is the subject of an illustrated talk by expert Dr Michael Hall.

Details: [www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk). Tickets: Worcester Live (01905 611427) or Bewdley Tourist Information Centre (01299 404740).



Henson and a Muppet . . . tickets for Gyles Brandreth, above, and Adam Henson, below are already sold out



## Streetdance to return

POPULAR dancers Tru Streetdance are returning to the Bewdley Festival.

The performers, based in the heart of Birmingham, will be at Bewdley on Saturday, October 8.

They will give a performance outside the Guildhall in the morning and are also running a free workshop at 12.30pm at The Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre.

## Quiz night at church

A QUIZ night will be held at a church near Kidderminster to raise cash for a charity celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The event at St John the Baptist Church in Wolverley will support the Langstone Society, which looks after people with autism and other disabilities.

People can take their own drinks to the event, which starts at 7.30pm on September 13.

Tickets are £5 from Ann Middleton on 01384 298814.

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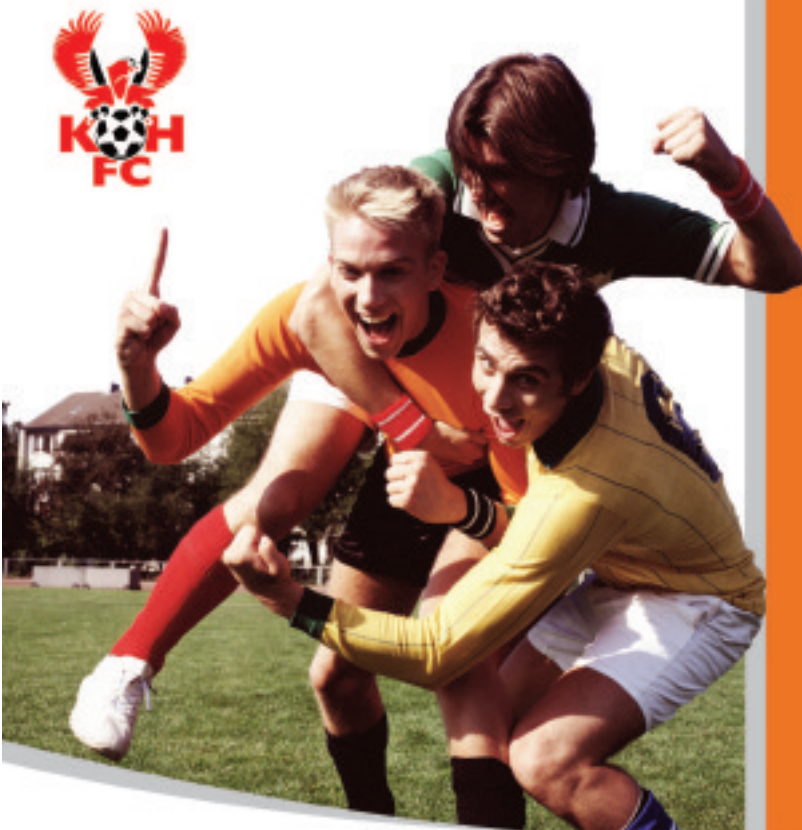
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Tel 07786 696559

[www.younggloves.co.uk](http://www.younggloves.co.uk)

email [info@younggloves.co.uk](mailto:info@younggloves.co.uk)

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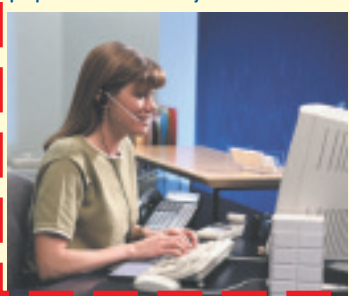


## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Your cut out and keep - Kidderminster Chronicle Guide - Keep safe and refer to should you need an emergency number

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| AGE CONCERN .....  | 0800 1696565  |
| ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS .....   | 0845 7697555  |
| ANTHONY NOLAN BONE MARROW TRUST .....                                | 0303 3030 303 |
| ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT .....                                     | 01384 816916  |
| ARTHRITIS CARE .....   | 0115 952 5522 |
| ASTHMA UK .....  | 0800 121 6244 |
| BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY .....            | 01455 883300  |
| BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION .....                                       | 0300 330 3311 |
| BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION .....  | 08458 505020  |
| CITY DOCTORS ON CALL/ GP OUT OF HOURS .....                          | 0845 609 0669 |
| CHILDLINE .....  | 0800 1111     |
| CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU .....  | 01562 823953  |
| CRIMESTOPPERS (anonymous freephone number for reporting crime) ..... | 0800 555 111  |
| DIABETES UK .....  | 01562 68649   |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP LINE (REFUGE) .....                           | 0808 200 0247 |
| FRANK (DRUG & SOLVENT PROBLEMS) .....                                | 0800 776 600  |
| GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS .....   | 0121 233 1335 |
| HOMELESS SERVICES .....  | 0300 555 8283 |
| MACMILLAN CANCERLINE .....   | 0808 808 2000 |
| MIND .....   | 01384 442938  |
| NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE ABUSED IN CHILDHOOD .....            | 0800 085 3330 |
| NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE .....   | 0300 123 2323 |
| NATIONAL MISSING PERSON'S HELPLINE .....                             | 0208 392 4545 |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD MEDIATION SERVICE .....                                | 01389 772 048 |
| NHS DIRECT .....   | 0845 4647     |
| NSPCC .....  | 0808 800 5000 |
| RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT CENTRE .....                           | 08451 221331  |
| RELATE .....   | 01902 428447  |
| ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND .....                         | 0303 123 9999 |
| ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEAF PEOPLE .....                       | 0808 808 0123 |
| SAMARITANS .....   | 01384 78111   |
| SEVERN TRENT WATER .....   | 024 7771 5000 |
| SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATER .....                                      | 0800 389 1011 |
| STOP SMOKING CAMPAIGN (NHS) .....                                    | 0800 022 4332 |
| TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST .....   | 0808 802 1221 |
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| WEST MIDLANDS POLICE .....   | 0345 113 5000 |
| WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL .....                                   | 01562 732 928 |

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### thechronicle

## Anger as homes plan passes

PLANS to replace a 108-year-old bowling club with 26 homes have been given the go-ahead, angering residents who battled against them for three years.

The proposals for the site of Chester Road Bowling Club in Kidderminster were twice rejected by councillors, but developers have now gained permission from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Wyre Forest Community Housing will build the two and three-bedroom homes.

Residents had lined the streets with

protest signs to convince inspectors to throw out the plans.

They say they are "disgusted" with the decision and claim local concerns have been ignored.

But planning inspector Elaine Benson rejected their fears over parking and the size of the development, saying it would be suitable for the surrounding area.

In her report, Ms Benson said: "It would make an efficient and effective use of land."

Martin Stooke, aged 72, who lives opposite the bowling club in Chester

Road North, said: "We are disgusted by the verdict. Local councillors turned this down twice, but it gets put in the hands of people in Bristol and there's a different decision."

"The inspector visited here for no more than an hour, so how can she know that's best for the area?" Eleven houses will be for social renting and the rest available through shared ownership schemes.

Managing Director of Wyre Forest Community Housing Yvonne Leishman said the homes were much needed in the area.

# Start date now set for conversion of mill to a museum

## All geared up for rally



Sue Hammond, in 1920s clothing, from Stourbridge with a 1926 Morris Bullnose at the popular car show



Peter Cartwright, from Stourbridge, at the annual classic vehicle rally with a 1961 Austin A40 Farina

FANS of vintage vehicles got to indulge their passion at a village near Kidderminster. Up to 300 cars including Rolls Royce vehicles and Morgan vehicles were among those on show in Upper Arley on Bank Holiday Monday.

The car show is an annual event, which takes place at the sports field next to Arley Memorial Hall and it includes a car boot sale. Funds raised from the show will go towards local good causes and the Midland Air Ambulance.

Bridgnorth Vintage Machinery club secretary David Spruce said: "It was a real family day out. This is around the 15th or 16th year we have been holding this event and I think we have had more than 2,000 people walking around today."

Those who went along were asked to make a donation of £1 but Mr Spruce said some people were making donations of £5 or more.

A LONG-AWAITED project to convert an historic mill into a museum celebrating Kidderminster's carpet-making heritage will begin later this month.

Kidderminster Carpet Trust said work to create the tourist attraction at the former Stourvale Mill in Green Street is scheduled to begin on September 19.

It had been hoped that work would start last month but final planning for the scheme took longer than expected.

Building contractors Shaylor Group Plc have been appointed to carry out the work.

The Trust and the contractors are currently thrashing out the final details of the project but say work will start next month.

The trust has been developing plans for the site for years and hope to create an attraction to rival Dudley's Black Country Living Museum.

It will contain artefacts from the town's carpet-making heritage and feature displays detailing the industrial heritage of the town and its significance across the entire globe.

Carpet Trust spokesman Peter Reed said: "We are reaching the end of necessary discussions now and we have a start date of September 19.

### Decorate

"I can also now confirm a developer for the work has been appointed."

"There are still a few things to be sorted out but work is very close to starting now."

The museum is still expected to open around October next year with the actual conversion work set for completion around April or May.

Once the conversion has been completed it is expected to take another few months to decorate the building and install all of the exhibits in time for the opening date.

Refurbishment work on the front of the mill, which dates back to 1855 and is grade-II listed, has already been carried out.

Supermarket giant Morrisons, which owns the mill, spent £500,000 on the work years ago - although the site has since been hit by vandal attacks and anti-social behaviour.

The trust has leased the building from Morrisons for 50 years.

## Bands sign up for gig

BANDS are still signing up for a tribute gig in honour of a Midland music promoter whose career spans more than 40 years.

Groups will take to the stage at Kidderminster Town Hall on October 21 to celebrate the life of John Combe.

The bill is made up of bands that Mr Combe, aged 66, has worked with or helped over the years. The latest addition is 1970s tribute band Ballroom Glitz.

Mr Combe, who has suffered from ill health in recent years and is now confined to a wheelchair, said he was "flattered" by the event.

He started out managing bands in London in the late 60s before bringing UB2 and UB40 to Kidderminster Town Hall.

A GAMES ROOM based in an outdoor shed in a Stourport garden has been damaged in a fire.

Fire crews were called to Queens Road, on the Walshes estate, at around 11.30pm on Tuesday, August 30.

They found that a timber and metal outbuilding in the garden of the property was alight.

The structure contained a television as well as a hi-fi system.

One crew from Stourport and one from Kidderminster attended the scene.

The cause of the blaze is being investigated.

# Call for free car parking

FREE car parking needs to be introduced in Wyre Forest town centres to boost the number of shoppers and entice new businesses, according to a councillor.

Trade in Kidderminster suffered a blow in recent months with the closure of TJ Hughes and the announcement that Topshop and Dorothy Perkins will shut.

And Councillor Graham Ballinger, who represents Greenhill, said new measures were now desperately needed to "stop the rot" and bring in new traders before it is too late.

He has launched a campaign calling for car parks nearest shops in Kidder-

minster, Bewdley and Stourport to be made free as an incentive to visitors and businesses. Whether we like it or not we have to realise we are in competition with places like the Merry Hill Shopping Centre which offers free car parking," he said.

"We have to look at new strategic measures to bring shoppers and traders into this area."

"Free car parking in the centres would be a positive step forward. If more customers are coming in then businesses will stop and take notice and want to set up in the centres."

He added: "Some will say it is not possible because it will lead to a loss of income. However, this would be

recouped by the rates paid by businesses coming into the town."

"Kidderminster is looking in a very depressed state and something has to be done now."

Councillor Ballinger said he would take the plan to Wyre Forest District Council, but environmental services cabinet member Councillor Marcus Hart said: "As was widely publicised, we had a full and thorough cross-party review of car parking within the Wyre Forest less than 12 months ago."

"All aspects of car parking were scrutinised and reviewed and the new arrangements were adopted by full council and came into effect in April this year."



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# Historic singing group sets sights on Black Country audiences



Kidderminster Male Voice Choir in 1909, five years after its foundation



The choir on tour pose with a Mountie in front of the parliament in Ottawa



A 1948 photograph of Kidderminster Male Voice Choir in the town hall

## Choir wants its voice heard



Musical director David Barclay, newest member Daniel Woolley, aged 16, and accompanist Maureen Bowkett

THEY make up one of the region's biggest boy bands with members ranging in age from 16 to 90.

And now the 65-strong Kidderminster Male Voice Choir – is setting its sights on breaking into the Black Country.

The choir has its roots in Victorian, church-based glee clubs but was officially founded with its present name in 1904.

The group sets a high standard, with aspiring members having to pass a voice test to show they can "hold a tune" as a bass, baritone or tenor, in front of the musical director, before being given the chance to wear the coveted red blazer that is their trademark.

"We've competed with – and beaten – some Welsh male voice choirs, although we're really a social choir rather than a competition one," said publicity officer Paul Booton, aged 71, of Hoo Road, Kidderminster, retired production manager at Brinton's

Carpets. "We've toured to Canada, Australia, Normandy and Ireland and, for our 100th anniversary, we performed a sell-out concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham."

"Our aim now is to widen our audiences locally – we'd like to break into Wolverhampton and the rest of the Black Country with more bookings there – and we are singing at a wedding in Gornal soon."

Fans of the choir include the comedian Roy Hudd, who is their patron.

### Keen

They're keen – with an average turnout of 35 to 55 for "note bashing" practices for the voice sections in the chantry on Tuesdays and full rehearsals in the main church on Thursdays.

Bohemian Rhapsody is one of the signature pieces performed by the gents, who range in age from 16-year-old Dan Woolley to Reg Edwards, who is 90.

It's 86-year-old Gerry Bain-

bridge, a retired MEB electrician, of Leabank Avenue, Kidderminster, who sings Freddie Mercury's part in his top tenor voice.

Gerry, who is registered blind and has been a member of the choir for 15 years, said: "It's always popular at our concerts – if we don't sing it we get told off."

"I thought Freddie Mercury was great and I'm proud to sing his most famous song."

The choir is a firm favourite at Kidderminster Town Hall, with regular sell-outs attracting audiences of 400, as well as at weddings and funerals.

Two years ago their "Songs for Heroes" recording raised £45,000 for the Help for Heroes charity and, in April, they launched their CD "Hearts in Harmony" in aid of the British Heart Foundation's 50th anniversary campaign.

The latest CD is available, priced £10, from the choir's website [www.kidderminster-malechoir.co.uk](http://www.kidderminster-malechoir.co.uk), with 75 per cent of the proceeds going to the charity.



The choir's longest serving member, with 36 years, is Bill Spratt, centre front

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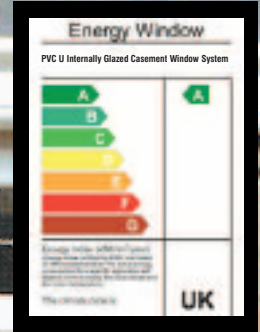


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Crowds watch the parade on the move



Could we have a little more? The Oliver! float

# More than 2,000 go to see the carnival

STOURPORT carnival attracted an attendance of more than 2,000 people.

The two-day weekend event included parades, dancers, fairground rides and fireworks.

It opened with a land parade from Arley Kings, before pedestrians joined the route at Walshes Meadow.

The 10 floats were put together by community groups such as the Brownies and Guides, and businesses including Lickhill Manor Caravan Park.

Staff from the park had three floats in total, themed on Mary Poppins, Oliver! and holidays.

Park manager Isabell Evans, aged 53, said: "People come to Stourport for the carnival, it's a great tradition and we always try to take part."

The carnival queen, princess and rosebud were officially crowned in front of a crowd.

Princess Faith Broome-Nelson, aged 14, queen Kirsty Organ, 21, and rosebud Abbie Little, four, drew huge cheers as they were paraded through the town on their float.

Miss Organ, who is studying events management at the University College Birmingham, said: "The carnival has been a really good success and it's great to see everyone so happy and having a good time."



Carnival queen Kirsty Organ

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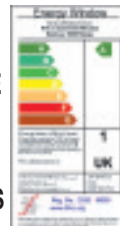
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# Lucy on the ball for top coach honour

A WYRE FOREST football coach has won the accolade of Football Association coach of the year for Worcestershire.

Lucy Savage, a community sports coach for Wyre Forest District Council, won the FA McDonald's Community Award for her commitment to improving standards of community football and increasing participation in the sport.

She has been working for the council just over two years.

As part of her job she runs football sessions for children of all abilities in schools throughout the district. She has also just completed a summer programme of sporting sessions for children during the school holidays.

Lucy said: "I'm delighted to pick up the award."

"I really enjoy my work and I'm especially keen to develop girls' and women's football in the region."

## Talent

"What I'm ultimately aiming for is help youngsters build on their skills so they continue with the game and join a local club."

Councillor Tracey Onslow, the council's cabinet member with responsibility for community wellbeing, said: "Congratulations to Lucy."

It's recognition of the work Lucy does, dedicating time to developing tomorrow's young talent.

"The sports development team is committed to developing and maintaining sporting opportunities for the whole community and this award highlights just one aspect of what they do."

It is the second year of the FA Community Awards, which reward individuals and clubs across the country who make a difference to grassroots football.



Lucy Savage has been named top county coach

## Hitting the trail to fitness

RESIDENTS are being offered the chance to get outdoors and get fit on a fitness trail at Stourport.

The new Burlish Top trail starts at the Kingsway and has been created by Wyre Forest District Council with lottery funding from Sport England.

It is one and a half kilometres long and suitable for runners and walkers of all abilities. There are sections to the trail and participants can read about how to tackle each stage at stations around the route.

The trail opens officially on Sunday (September 11) when there will be three free 30-minute taster sessions. They start at 11.15am, 12.10pm and 2.30pm, will be led by a qualified fitness coach.

There is free parking at Stourport Sports Club and free shuttle buses. Details: 01562 732975.

The trail opening is part of the Wyre Forest Community Games event at Stourport Sports Club between 11am and 3pm. Details: www.stourportsportsclub.co.uk

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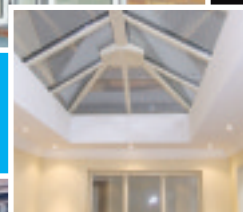
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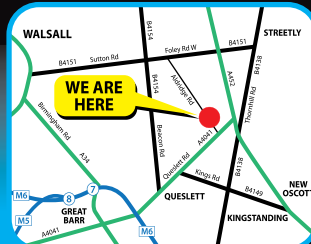
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## Wetland work on the level

Join the team every weekday for updates on the roads across Worcestershire. Tune into 107.2 The Wyre. You can be a Jam-buster, call 0333 123 1072.



# Forest folklore and the last defenders



Tea time, but rifle at the ready for the Home Guard

## Digging deep at allotment to help charity

A HARTLEBURY food producer has begun work with a charity which helps the homeless.

CP Foods, on the Hartlebury Trading Estate, is working with Maggs Day Centre in Worcester as part of the firm's charity partnership programme.

Maggs is an open-door, free-access day centre helping those who are homeless, isolated or lonely.

## Warning to aid cyclists

THE growth of cycling has prompted a warning from the Safer Roads Partnership in Worcestershire.

As more two-wheel fans get the most from the last days of summer, the organisation has issued safety advice.

It says riders should make sure they can be seen by other road users. Wear or carry something light - coloured, bright or fluorescent in daylight.

In the dark, use of reflective materials, armbands or waistcoat is very effective as is making sure lights work and are clean.

### Helmet

The use of a cycle helmet can help prevent head injury and provide additional protection in the event of a crash.

Cyclists can warn horse-riders of their presence when approaching from behind, and ringing a bell is good etiquette when following a pedestrian on a shared use path.

The partnership, a group of official bodies including highways authorities and the police, is also urging drivers to help by checking twice for cyclists at junctions.

THE County Museum at Hartlebury Castle wraps up its annual programme of walks and talks with two events that each has a local twist.

"The Real Home Guard", on Friday, September 16 will be a look at how Britain's last line of defence evolved from its "Look, Duck and Vanish" approach to become a front line fighting force and a cover for the nation's top secret resistance army.

Local expert Malcolm Atkin will also discuss how the Home Guard operated within Worcestershire and the session includes a chance for visitors to handle real Home Guard weapons and equip-

ment. The talk links in with the museum's current temporary exhibition, Family At War, which explores the lives of a typical Worcestershire family in 1942 through room sets, costume and real historic objects.

The final talk, on Sunday, October 2, is called "The Spirit of the Woods" and is in honour of 2011 being the International Year of the Forest.

### Gentle

Rod Pomery, retired National Trust head forester, will give a talk exploring the myths and folklore surrounding woods and forests including the Green Man and other legends.

Weather dependant, this talk will also include a gentle stroll around the nature reserve.

The talks both begin at 11am and will finish with a home-cooked lunch in the museum cafe at 1pm.

Afterwards visitors can tour the museum.

Rachel Robinson, visitor experience manager at the museum, said: "Our walks and talks programme has been popular this year and these last two will be no exception."

"The experiences of the Home Guard and the myths and legends of British woodlands are such fascinating topics and we are lucky to have some real experts to share their knowledge," she added.

Tickets cost £16 including a meal and must be booked in advance. Details: 01299 250416 or email museum@worcestershire.gov.uk



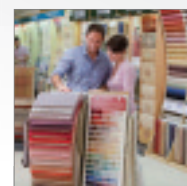
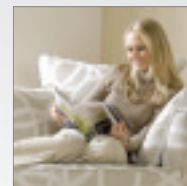
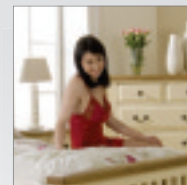
Rod Pomery will talk about the forest myths

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## Scouts' tabletop sale

SCOUTS in Kidderminster are setting up a tabletop sale to raise funds.

The KD14 group needs the cash to replace old equipment.

Tables will be on offer at £5 a stall at Meredith Green, Birchen Coppice on Saturday (September 10) from 10am-3pm.

The event will also feature bric-a-brac, a face painter, bouncy castle, food, raffles and a tombola. For more details or to book a table, call 07986 139515.

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## Going green for big event

MEMBERS of Kidderminster Horticultural Society are gearing up for the group's annual two-day show which takes place this weekend.

The show takes place at the Ramada Hotel in Bewdley and will be the 57th in the society's history.

In the past three years the show has been expanded to incorporate a country fair and craft tent alongside the traditional horticultural and flower show and the same attractions are likely to be a hit once again.

Garden News editor Clare Foggett will open the show officially at noon on Saturday (September 10), although people are allowed in from 10am, with the day continuing until 5.30pm.

### Medieval

Sunday opening times are 10am-5.30pm and several displays, including vintage vehicles, agricultural tools, walking stick carving, chain saw carving and chair repairing, take place on both days.

There will also be a plant sale, gardener's question time, dancing displays, medieval displays, dog agility, Victorian merry go round, puppet theatre and train rides.

A show spokeswoman said: "This really is a very friendly show and the

entrance fee is only £2 with free parking."

Under-16s get in free and a series of refreshments will be available including homemade cake, ploughman's

lunches and an all-day barbecue. For more information on the society visit [www.horticultural.org.uk](http://www.horticultural.org.uk) or ring Louise Aston on 01562 69115 or 07530 793651.



David West, front left, and Trevor Jones, front right, with other members of Kidderminster Horticultural Society ahead of the group's annual show

# Adam the gardener takes best in show

STOURPORT Horticultural Society's annual show proved to be a big success, according to one of its organisers.

The show, which took place on Bank Holiday weekend, has been running for more than 100 years and this year was again held at Riverside Meadows.

Winners included 21-year-old Adam Greathead, who won best in show for his chrysanthemum, while Austin Fletcher took home the Eric Hughes Cup for his gladioli.

Committee member and organiser Derek Walker, whose parsnips won him the best vegetable crown, said the show was well attended.

"The weather wasn't wonderful but there was still a good turnout and it was a success," he said.

"There aren't too many shows left which take place in marquees - they're usually in church halls - and I think there is something special about it."

Other activities during the two-day show included a raffle, tombola, various stalls and a display from Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade.



Derek Walker and Adam Greathead with winning leeks. Pictures: Colin Hill



Left, Graham Chadbourne knows his onions.



Right, carrots on display from Austin Fletcher.

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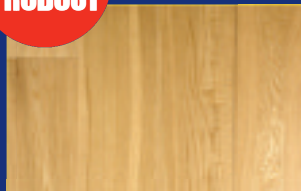
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**DIVORCED** very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTW similar/male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370023

**YOUNG** looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely, WLTW nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370111

**HAYLEY** 26yr old curvy brunette, single mum of one, outgoing but very lonely, WLTW trustworthy guy who can help me have some fun again. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374139

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**DOREEN** blue eyes, red hair, petite build, varied interests looking for someone with a bit of get up and go who can make me laugh. Looks unimportant. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374137

**WENDY** dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317

**JEAN** 71, fun loving Shropshire lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373657

**FARMER'S** granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, single, WLTW countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Herefordshire. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 387204

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**SLIM** female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369295

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**OPTIMISTIC** Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Bridgnorth area preferred. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033

**BLACK** attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367021

**RAQUEL** dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651

**WIDOWED** lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Shropshire Area Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362993

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**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852

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**WHITE** 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855

**CARING** and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTW very caring and honest gentleman. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985

**KIND** romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367751

**SLIM** 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373

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**ATTRACTIVE** female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

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**MARIA** 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes being in love, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319

**42YR** old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, countryside, gardening and travel. 45-55. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399

**BRIGHT** bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235

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**ATTRACTIVE** Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, fit plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

**72YR** old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easy-going and N/S. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265

**WEST** Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 347375

**ATTRACTIVE** slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651

**LISA** 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713

**GENUINE** caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327465

**DO** you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327575

**28YR** old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380918

**YOUNG** at heart lady, mid 70's, seeks male friend to enjoy outings and companionship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355821

**YOUNG** bubbly black lady, likes winning/dining, seeks mature male for love and honest, 70-76 for outings, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275

**BOSSY** lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good looking, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 326119

**SHY** lady 56, seeks similar natured, wealthy, tall male who loves small dogs, driving, Dorset, DIY, dining out and feeding the ducks. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367783

**OUTGOING** sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 33-45. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362769

**FEMALE** likes meals out, cinema, nights in, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361871


**LADY** 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361043

**VANESSA** fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

**BUBBLY** female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357919

**42YR** old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, countryside, gardening and travel. 45-55. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399

**BRIGHT** bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235

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**PROFESSIONAL** lady, young 50, fashionable, pleasant, kind, likes countryside, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403

**OPEN** friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian bubbly female for fun and friendship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867

**YOUNG** looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115

**SLIM** attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491

**ATTRACTIVE** 40yr old female, brunette, slim-medium build, many interests, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619

**LADY** N/S, car owner, seeks lonely, retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354183

**ATTRACTIVE** nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTW attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479

**FEMALE** kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397

**FRIENDLY** black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865

**53YR** old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275

**ATTRACTIVE** single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919

**PRINCE** wanted, must be 6ft, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465

**PROFESSIONAL** slim, curvy, bubbly 45yr old lady, seeks tall, professional male, 42-52 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 262586

**BLONDE** attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362478

**MAUREEN** seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323543

**LADY** 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTW gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

**WIDOWED** female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765

**ATTRACTIVE** glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799

**FEMALE** medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40-42 for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985

**ATTRACTIVE** slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, medium, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315

**60YR** old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627

**FEMALE** 52, 5ft 2ins, divorced, likes walking, dancing, cinema, meals out, seeks genuine, N/S, male, 50-55. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 175714

## men seeking women

**Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).**

**TONY** genuine professional male, 50, likes nights in/out, many interests, seeks genuine female for relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373351

**PETER** Shropshire male, 33, 5ft 7ins, medium-large build, 3 children, likes football, pub quizzes, kind, caring, seeks bubbly female for fun and friendship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375281

**MALE** 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tipton. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370649

**FIT** fun guy 45, Hereford area, good job, loves walks, trips out, seeks female soul mate. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371031

**MALE** 53, seeks female 35-45 for friendship, maybe relationship. Tel: No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375057

**Tom** Shropshire male, 58, N/S, quiet, homely, OHAC, likes music, walks, countryside, seeks similar,



## Further growth is the goal for league



Leisure Leagues staff model an assortment of playing kits

A SIX-A-SIDE football league in Stourport is looking to expand in the new season.

Matches in the long-running Leisure Leagues event take place at Stourport Sports Club on Mondays.

The winners and runners-up in each division will be invited to go forward to

the National six-a-side tournament.

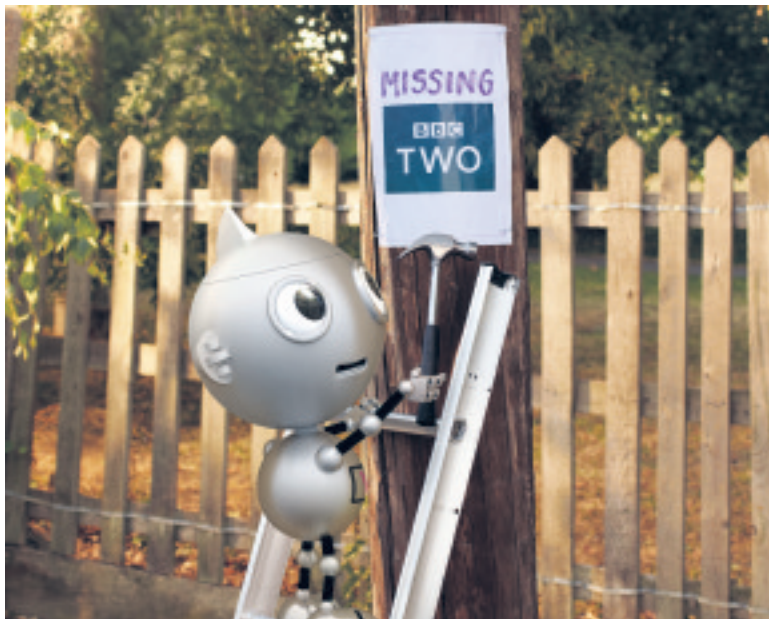
There are trophies for the top two – and a stylish wooden spoon for those

propping up the table – in a competition which caters for all standards.

All matches are refereed by qualified officials and all equipment is provided. Profits are donated to Cancer

Research, Dogs Trust and the National Blind Children's Society.

Leisure Leagues also offers a full colour match programme to each team and has recently upgraded its website. For further details call 0845 230 2340, log on to [www.leisureleagues.net](http://www.leisureleagues.net) or email [info@leisureleagues.net](mailto:info@leisureleagues.net)



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## thechronicle

Burglars  
snatch  
car and TV

THIEVES stole a car in Belbroughton after burgling a house and finding the keys.

They got into the home in Nash Lane through an insecure gate and found the keys to a silver Vauxhall Corsa, registration number VES6 BUU.

The car is worth £6,700 but the thieves also took a £250 flat screen Sony television and a black leather handbag of sentimental value.

It happened between 10pm on Tuesday, August 30 and 6.30am the following day.

It is believed that the thieves travelled to Belbroughton in a blue Rover 25, which was itself stolen from Groveley Lane, Coton Hackett, near Bromsgrove. It was found abandoned in High Street, Belbroughton.

De Tony Plannagan of West Mercia Police appealed for anyone with information to call 0300 333 3000 or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. He said: "Burglaries can have a significant impact on peoples' lives. It can take a long time to come to terms with the loss of personal possessions."

Awards for those who look  
and sound like real thing

A KIDDERMINSTER entertainment agency is to host the UK's Tribute and Lookalike Awards at Aston Villa FC.

Upfront Entertainment Agency will stage the show on Thursday, February 23 next year at the Holte Suite.

The event will run from 7pm to midnight and will feature more than 30 live performances. A panel of judges will choose winners in the categories of best tribute band, best female and male lookalike, best male and female solo act and best overall performance.

The audience will be made up of media, entertainment industry clients – and lookalikes. Performers include Kidderminster's Tom Faulks as Michael Buble and Sandy Lawrence of Wolverhampton as Shirley Bassey.

Equipment is stolen in  
night raid on stables

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of equipment has been stolen from a Wyre Forest horse stables in a late night raid.

Thieves managed to cut through large padlocks on two 20ft long shipping containers at Honeybrook Stud, in Kidderminster, before making off with the contents.

Numerous items of equipment including three chainsaws – costing up to £500 to replace – a £450 streamer and dozens of other tools were taken. Stables owner Lyn Phillips woke to find the broken locks on the ground.

October walk  
dates are set

ROCK Pathfinders, which lays on free guided walks around the village's countryside, has released details of its October programme.

The October walks will be on Thursdays, starting at 10.30am.

The October 6 walk is from the car park at Eymore Wood, Trimbley (OS reference 770791).

Two weeks later it goes from the Rock Cross Inn (OS reference 735712). Details: www.rockvillagehall.co.uk or call 01299 400304.

Other equipment inside included a hedge cutter and a hole boring machine.

Miss Phillips, aged 58, estimates the equipment could be worth at least £3,000.

She said the shipping containers could not be seen from the road so she fears the thieves must have already looked around the site to know they were there.

"We can't believe they have come onto our land to do something like this," she said.

"We think they must have been down here a while and had a big van if they were able to get away with that amount of equipment."

She claims the offenders must have jumped a fence to access the shipping containers at the rear of their land.

## Checked

Miss Phillips said her partner Jonathan Price last checked the animals at around 11pm on the night of Tuesday, August 30.

But he said the containers had been broken into by the time he went outside at 7.30am the following day.

"We think that they have parked up a van or some kind of vehicle on the roadside," said Miss Phillips.

"We just hope that someone will have seen something as this is a busy road."

"I'm just really angry about this as it appears there is no deterrent to these people who do this."

The stable is situated on a bend along the A442 Bridgnorth Road just outside Franche and is set back from the main carriageway.

Police spokeswoman Julia Jones said: "We can confirm that we are looking into the incident at Honeybrook Stud and we trying to establish exactly what has been taken."

Anyone with any details can call West Mercia Police on 0300 333 3000.



Jonathan Price from Honeybrook Stud displays a broken padlock

Deal for  
Heroes  
who go  
on safari

WEST Midland Safari Park is hosting Hero Month throughout September as a thank-you to the emergency services.

On production of a valid ID, members will benefit from reduced prices for themselves and accompanying family and friends.

The offer covers police, ambulance, fire, lifeboat and coastguard services along with armed forces, doctors, nurses and paramedics.

The sole exception is September 17 when the park at Bewdley is fully booked.

Animal attractions on the four-mile self-drive safari include rhino, cheetah, white lions, elephants and giraffes.

## Reptile

Discovery Trail exhibits include the sea lion show, creepy crawlies, seaquarium, seal island, Mark O'Shea's reptile world, twilight cave, the new African village, Meerkat Mayhem and Walking with Lemurs.

The amusement area has more than 30 rides and games, including the Venom tower drop, Black Fly and Zambezi water splash.

Heroes admission charges are £7.25 per adult (16-64) and £6.75 per child (3-15). Children under three are admitted free. Rides cost extra in all cases.

The park is open seven days a week until Friday, November 4. Usual admission is £13.99 for adults, £11.99 for children and £12.99 for concessions.

Details: www.wmsp.co.uk or call 01299 402114 or email events@wmsp.co.uk



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**LocalMole** is our new, comprehensive and authoritative business directory. Big words we know - but we stand by them. It is part of Express & Star, the Regions leading local newspaper publisher. It connects local business to local consumers in a very simple, accessible way.

Our strapline is 'digging for the best local businesses' and that's exactly what we help our users do. With 1.8 million businesses the length and breadth of the UK, which can be searched by business name, type or location, your next customer is only one click away.

If **LocalMole** for our users is about digging out the best local businesses, for our advertisers it's about digging out the best local customers! By taking out a paid-for listing with us and turning their page into a mini-website complete with pictures, special offers and top of the molehill placement, businesses can ensure they are doing all they can to catch the eye of discerning customers. This is all the more important in the current climate.

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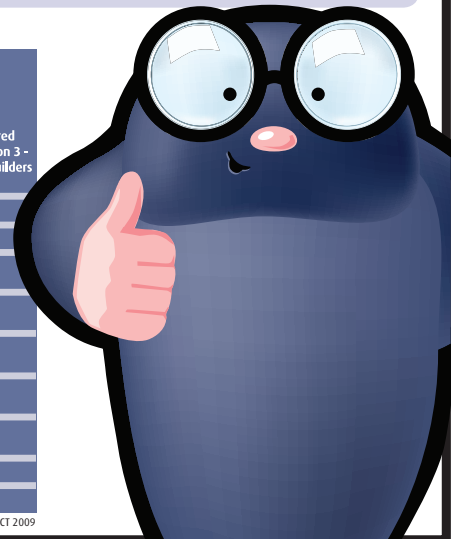
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| <b>Contact page</b>               | Contact form, map, email                   | Contact form, map, email          | Contact form, map, email           | Contact form, map, email  |
| <b>Business information</b>       | 1,000 character business description       | 500 characters + products offered | ✗                                  | ✓   |
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| <b>Web link</b>                   | ✓  | Additional charge of £100 PA      | ✓                                  | ✓   |
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Product offerings vary but where possible like for like products have been compared. \*Correct at time of going to print.

\* SOURCE: OMNIUM OCT 2009





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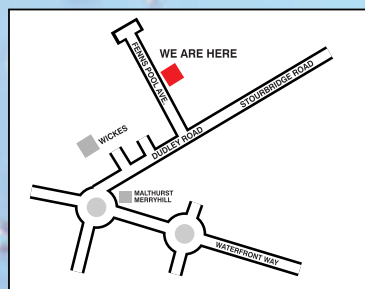


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James Grove founded the firm back in 1857



Factory staff in the early 1950s gather for a photograph after what appears to be some kind of presentation



Andrew Bytheway – buttons made from buffalo horn



Grove's Bloomfield Works in Stourbridge Road which at one time had 600 workers

# Button king fastened on to a winning idea

From soldiers fighting in the First World War to postmen and railway conductors – all of them had smart uniforms with shiny buttons.

James Grove and Sons supplied buttons to the Ministry of Defence, British Railways and the General Post Office and the firm's history can be traced back to making buttons during the American Civil War of 1861.

Still based on Stourbridge Road in Halesowen, the company was founded in 1857 by James Grove who started off with just a horse and trap. In the early 1900s he travelled across Europe selling horn buttons from his hotel room.

Now old photographs and artefacts from the factory have been handed over to staff at Dudley Archives and they give a snapshot of the factory in the 1950s and 60s.

Curator Andy Bytheway says it is wonderful to have such a rare collection of buttons in the archives.

"There are not many of these buttons left and so it is great to have such an extensive collection," he says. "Not only do we have some of the pieces that were manufactured at the factory, but also pictures of the workers and the founder James Grove."

James Grove served his apprenticeship with William Harris, who had a button factory at Spring Hill, which quickly became the largest and best equipped horn button factory in

Britain. James and his wife Ann Elizabeth set up their business in premises rented from Ann's father, but in 1865 this proved to be too small and so they decided to build the Bloomfield Works on Stourbridge Road.

The company employed about 600 men and women. Today, it employs around 40 people using sophisticated machinery and polishing techniques.

## Reputation

Andy says: "When James Grove died in 1886 the reputation of the company as makers of first quality horn buttons was firmly established. When visiting the Bloomfield Works in the 1950s people would have seen the long line of storage sheds piled high with sacks of horns and hoofs.

"The horns and hoofs were the raw

material used to make buttons – and any that were rejected were ground down to make fertiliser, so nothing was wasted."

Pieces of horn were put into steam heated presses to make them flat and then button blanks were cut out by machines. Andy says: "Then workers had to match up the buttons as, when they were spread out on a glass table and illuminated from beneath, at least four shades could be revealed. The buttons were then cut to the desired shape, holes were drilled and then they were polished."

The process today is still similar and some work is still done by hand. In 2006 the company moved into a brand new purpose-built manufacturing unit at Stourbridge Road and it now exports to most countries.

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Adrian McMurray with cars to be processed

# Funny old game as cars are stripped to the bare essentials



A car is lowered into the vat of stripping fluid



The shell after it has been stripped and cleaned

A METAL processing firm in the Black Country has become an internet sensation thanks to a popular TV show.

More than half a million people have taken part in a quiz on the BBC's Top Gear website featuring Surface Processing Ltd in Dudley.

The company, which strips the shells of cars to remove rust and old paint, attracted the attention of the show's producers who were looking for a new game for the site.

Players must guess the make and model of the car correctly from looking at a picture of a stripped-down body shell without any paintwork. At one point it was the most-read page on the site, attracting more hits than a video of The Stig meeting Formula One star Sebastian Vettel.

A surge in trade since the quiz went live. Bosses are now taking on two new workers, to add to the 21 existing staff, to deal with the increase in orders.

Managing director Adrian McMurray said the television show's producers heard about the company through a mutual acquaintance.

## Amazing

"Who would have thought we were going to get half a million people looking at the state of our cars?"

"It's amazing and I'm so pleased we were asked to take part," he said.

Cars are lowered into a series of huge vats of stripping fluid, removing rust and decay and leaving the bare bodywork.

The vehicle then goes through a 19-stage painting process to put on a protective coat, which sees it dipped in various materials, before being "baked" in an oven at 185F.

Another layer can be added during the painting process to prevent it rusting again.

The average cost is about £1,500 per car and the majority of the firm's customers are classic car collectors who want to restore their buy to its former glory.

Recent projects have included a Ford Consul Capri, a Ford Escort Mark One and a Volkswagen Golf Mark One, while classic Mini Coopers also regularly pass through the company's base in Deepdale Lane.

Mr McMurray, who set up the firm in 1994, said: "With this process we clear out all the muck and rubbish, clear out the good majority of all the rust and you are left with a nice clear blank page on which to start the restoration."

Along with cars, the firm also restores aerospace, construction and agricultural equipment.

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# Kidderminster & Wyre Forest



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# On your Door Step



## Franchise Community Primary School

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Visits to our school are welcome

Tel: 01562 751788 [www.franchiseprimary.org.uk](http://www.franchiseprimary.org.uk)

Ofsted - Good, with many outstanding features

Franchise Community Primary School has a vision for excellence and is determined to equip all its pupils with life long learning skills. The outstanding teaching and non teaching staff raise attainment and standards by offering an innovative and creative curriculum fit for the 21st century.

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*where all children maximise their potential*

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- Onsite Chestnut Children's Centre and Franchise 726 childcare







## ContinU Trust Open Evenings 2011/12

|                          | Autumn General<br>Open Evening       | 6th Form Specific<br>Information Evening                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Baxter                   | Thursday 20th October 2011           | Wednesday 12th October 2011                              |
| Bewdley                  | Thursday 13th October 2011           | Tuesday 18th October 2011                                |
| Hagley Catholic          | Saturday 15th October 2011 (daytime) | Thursday 20th October 2011                               |
| Haybridge                | Wednesday 19th October 2011          | Thursday 13th October 2011                               |
| King Charles             | Thursday 6th October 2011            | Thursday 10th November 2011                              |
| Stourport                | Thursday 29th September 2011         | Tuesday 11th October 2011                                |
| Wolverley                | Wednesday 5th October 2011           | Thursday 3rd November 2011                               |
| Kidderminster<br>College |                                      | Thursday 20th October 2011<br>Thursday 9th February 2012 |

ContinU Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, Number 6649728, registered Charity Number 1125543, [www.continu.org.uk](http://www.continu.org.uk)



## The ContinU Trust - Your Education on Your Doorstep

Whether it be GCSE grades, A level academic excellence or Vocational qualification success, students attending ContinU Trust partner institutions across the Wyre Forest and Hagley have broken exam records year after year. The ContinU Trust is recognised nationally as a unique partnership whose members deliver the highest educational standards. This has been the reason why fewer and fewer Wyre Forest and Hagley students consider studying out of the area.

The Trust is a charitable company and includes the seven Secondary Schools and Kidderminster College and has additional Trustees from the Universities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton and Barnardo's. It allows every learner to benefit from the strengths of every partner, their specialisms, leadership and shared resources. "When they enrol with one partner they enjoy the benefits of all" says Stourport High School Headteacher, Liz Quinn. This has led to year on year improvements in course pass rates, progression to Russell Group universities and Apprenticeship placements with employers. Not surprisingly, applications post 16 have risen dramatically especially as ContinU welcomes learners from across Worcestershire and Dudley.

Rob Chadwick, Director of ContinU says "Our schools and the college have a shared commitment to all young people in our area. Together we are driving up standards and developing greater opportunities for students".

The "Opening Doors" Programme is an excellent example of such collaboration, providing a Trust wide enrichment offer. It

delivers extra-curricular experiences for all students including gifted and talented, alongside community and voluntary sector opportunities. This year has seen students debating with Members of Parliament, visiting the United Nations in Geneva, attending specialist university preparation sessions and engaging in a range of community schemes and projects. Over 1500 students have participated since January and no similar menu of opportunities is available from providers outside of the Trust.

The ContinU Trust Board would like to congratulate staff, parents and the young people of all our member institutions on their successes this summer. We would also like to thank the Universities of Wolverhampton and Birmingham and the Barnardo's Charity who are key Trust members supporting our learners.

There has never been a better time to enrol with a ContinU Trust partner and we are delighted to invite students and parents to our Open Evenings scheduled for this term. A full list of our school and college partners with dates are provided here.



Schools and the College provide extensive confidence building activities linked to established schemes such as Duke of Edinburgh



The Annual 'Grow Your Own Career' Conference brings ContinU Post 16 Students together with New Business Start-Up Specialists, Employers, Apprenticeship Providers and Voluntary Organisations to widen their options and experiences.

## THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

A school for the future is what we at St Catherine's are looking forward to in 2012. We are thrilled that our new school has gone ahead and we have been excitedly watching the progress of the first 3 months of the project.

Children are at the heart of everything we do at St Catherine's and they have certainly been in the centre of the action for this new build! They have formed part of the consultation process right from the early design stages and now they are making regular visits to monitor progress on site.



Working off plan: Trinity Fitton identified her new classroom.



Site inspection: Lewis Bromell photographs progress to report back to his classmates.

The new school will have bigger and better facilities including a cutting edge Information Technology Learning Centre, a fully equipped Design Technology suite and two school halls. However, the number of children in the school will not increase.

This means that we can continue to provide a nurturing, supportive and personalised learning environment.

### St Catherine's

CE Primary School

Marlpool Lane, Kidderminster

01562 823614

Head Teacher - Mrs Sarah Power



Architect's drawing of the brand new school building

St Catherine's CE Primary School in Kidderminster is a school where we learn together using our heads and our hearts. This is reflected in our wonderful SATs results, achievement of Eco-Schools and International Schools awards and the great enjoyment that our children have in their learning. We are looking forward to moving into our new 'state of the art' school building, where we know that our existing child-centered and caring ethos will continue to flourish.

If you are interested in your child being part of our increasingly popular and successful school, please contact the Headteacher to arrange a time to look around. Come and see all the exciting learning in action and hear what the parents, the children, Ofsted, the Church Inspection Team (SIAS) and the Local Authority have to say about the many fabulous opportunities which are offered here, at our exciting school!



To contact us, to book a visit or make enquiries simply  
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or email:  
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### Open Day Saturday 8th October 10am-4 pm

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**A:** You can get doors made to fit – lots of online companies offer this service, but you will pay more.  
If you're on a budget, why not make the doors yourself? Cut sheets of 15mm or 18mm MDF to size, or take advantage of

B&Q's cutting service, available in its largest stores.

Visit [www.diy.com](http://www.diy.com) to see which stores near you offer timber cutting, but if you'll be making a special or long trip, check the service is available when you plan to go.

You can buy hinge-hole cutters for your drill or drill-driver, then all you have to do is prime and paint the doors and add knobs or handles.

# Brushing up on oil-based paints



Use natural bristle brushes to get the best results

**O**IL-based paints and varnishes tend to dry slowly, but sometimes nothing else will do. Follow Julia Gray's top tips for a durable finish.

Use oil-based paints and varnishes for a tough, durable finish that should last for years.

Most dry slowly, so be patient and don't do another coat until the previous one's completely dry.

Warmth will speed up the drying time, while cold or damp conditions will slow it down and may even ruin the finish.

### Results

Use natural bristle brushes for the best results, and clean them thoroughly after use.

You'll need to use white spirit or turpentine substitute for cleaning and you should soak your brushes in between coats.

It's very easy to ruin



Use oil-based paints for a finish which could last for years

brushes by not cleaning them properly and then leaving them to dry.

Wear rubber gloves and old clothes when using oil-based paints and varnishes, as they're hard to remove from your skin – and anything else you get them on. Remember to protect the surrounding area as well.

Over time, oil-based paints and varnishes tend to yellow, especially if they're white or clear.

If you're worried about this, choose water-based alternatives instead, which dry quicker and are nicer to use.

## Seasonal task

If you're thinking of laying a patio or doing some gardening before it gets too autumnal and cold to do anything outside, you'll need to protect your knees.

Save any strain with knee pads – they're handy for all sorts of DIY tasks.

Try Glas Ohlson's, priced at £7.49 for the pair, which are really comfy and made of polythene plastic.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

## MICROCHIPS DO WORK

**This is a very heart warming story that proves the chipping of your beloved pet can and does work.**

Alex and Russell Walker of Kidderminster went on their summer holidays in 2009 and, like a lot of pet owners, asked their neighbours to look after their beloved and treasured Charlie, a lovely ginger and white 2 year old cat.

During their holiday Charlie went missing and, as you can imagine, they were heartbroken on their return, hoping he would reappear. After an extensive but fruitless search, they had to accept that he was not going to reappear and so they thought that this was the end of the story.

Thirteen months later came a phone call out of the blue. A local vets had a lady called Val bring a cat into their practice thinking it was a stray. After scanning for a chip "Hey Presto", Charlie had been found. Next day



Charlie was reunited with a frankly overwhelmed and emotional Alex and Russell. If that had not been a stressful enough time, seven months later Alex received a call from Companion Care Vets Practice.

Would you believe it Charlie had been run over. It was the microchip that had located his owners again. He was transferred to his regular vets Charnock Shepherd Ltd. He then needed a major operation on his back leg as he had a shattered pelvis in four places. After 11 weeks of intensive care following the operation (ten of which he was cared for in a cage at home).

Charlie thankfully is on the mend after Charnock Shepherds' Care.

Alex and Russell are obviously very grateful for the care he did receive, but the point of this lovely story for anyone who is considering chipping their pet, do not hesitate, as was proved with Alex and Russell, your loved furry member of the family is well worth it.



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# Fun and laughter at 10th comedy festival



There's a Glee Club appearance for Jack Whitehall

Andy Parsons, Jack Whitehall, Russell Kane and Stephen Merchant are just four of the big names looking to pull in the crowds for the 10th annual Birmingham Comedy Festival.

In total more than 60 performances have been lined up for the 10-day October event, including numerous television stars, award-winners, up-and-coming comedians and cult favourites. Former drugs baron turned writer Howard Marks will bring his one-man show to The Glee Club, while stand-ups Lucy Porter, Patrick Monahan, Hal Cruttenden, Rob Rouse and Take Me Out's Paddy McGuinness are also due to appear.

The festival takes in art, plays and quizzes, with multi-award-winning West End smash Legally Blonde: The Musical and new play The Panto Girls being two theatre highlights.

## Improvised

One act likely to prove popular is The Boy With Tape On His Face - aka Sam Wills - whose improvised silent mime show was a big hit at last year's festival.

A noticeable musical thread is evident at the festival this year with a celebration of post-war American satirists Bob Newhart and Tom Lehrer, veteran pianist James Sherwood and guitarist/comedian Ashley Frieze.

Visual arts, sketch groups, mind-reading, multi-media performances, improvisation and more fill the busy schedule, which covers more than 20 venues throughout the city.

These include established arenas such as the Alexandra Theatre, the Town Hall and The Glee Club, as well as smaller more intimate venues like Scruffy Murphys and Jewellery Quarter's Red Lion pub.



Paddy McGuinness - an appearance at the NIA on October 6

In its 10-year history, the festival has included such famous names as Michael McIntyre, Peter Kay, Sean Lock and Jimmy Carr, attracting audiences of up to 86,000 people. A festival spokesman said: "We'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in making the festival such a huge success over the past 10 years."

"This city has a comic heritage to be proud of, but it's not something stuck in the past; it's constantly evolving with new acts

and new comedy clubs appearing every year. If your only experience of comedy is sitting at home watching primetime variety TV or late-night panel shows, this festival offers the perfect introduction to what comedy can really offer. It can be exciting, thrilling, challenging, cheeky, affectionate, ridiculous and so much more."

The festival runs from October 7-16. Visit [www.bhamcomfest.co.uk](http://www.bhamcomfest.co.uk) for a full list of shows, dates, venues and times.



Barbara Nice is appearing with the 'Gals' at the Glee Club, October 10



Fosters Comedy award winner Russell Kane is at the New Alexandra Theatre

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**BBC2** 6.00 *Cbeebies*, 7.00 *CBBC*, 8.30 *CBBC*, 9.00 *CBBC*, 10.15 *The Flint Pathfinders Show* (R), 10.45 *Top Gear*, 11.00 *Top Gear*, 11.15 *George Alagiah*, 1.00 *Diagnostic Murder*, (R) 1.15 *To Buy or Not to Buy* (R), 2.15 *Animal 24/7*, (R) 2.30 *Weekend Link*, (R) 3.15 *Red Rescue*, (R) 3.30 *Red*, 3.45 *Antiques Road Trip*, 5.15 *Antiques Road Trip*, 6.00 *Eggheads*, 6.30 *Real History of Britain*, 7.00 *Live At The BBC*, *The Memorial Inn* (R), 8.00 *Digging for Britain*, 8.30 *CBBC*, 9.00 *Newsnight*, 9.30 *News*, 10.15 *The 1970s*, 10.45 *News*, 11.15 *News*, 11.45 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6.00 *News*, 6.30 *News*, 7.00 *News*, 7.30 *News*, 8.00 *News*, 8.30 *News*, 9.00 *News*, 9.30 *News*, 10.00 *News*, 10.30 *News*, 11.00 *News*, 11.30 *News*, 12.00 *News*, 12.30 *News*, 1.00 *News*, 1.30 *News*, 2.00 *News*, 2.30 *News*, 3.00 *News*, 3.30 *News*, 4.00 *News*, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *News*, 5.30 *News*, 6

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**Channel 4** 6:00 *Sci Mail* (P) 6:05 *The Hoobly* (R) 6:10 *The Hoobly* (R) 6:30 *The Hoobly* (R) 6:50 *The Hoobly* (R) 7:00 *Princess Sooty* 7:25 *Everybody Loves Raymond* (P) 8:05 *Everybody Loves Raymond* (P) 8:35 *Graders* (P) 8:55 *Superman USA* (P) 9:00 *Superman USA* (P) 9:05 *Superman USA* (P) 9:10 *A Flood by the Sea* (P) 9:20 *Channel 4 News Summary* 9:25 *Three in Bed USA* 9:30 *Scene Stealing* (P) 9:35 *My Elderly* (P) 9:40 *My Elderly* (P) 9:45 *My Elderly* (P) 9:50 *My Elderly* (P) 9:55 *My Elderly* (P) 10:00 *My Elderly* (P) 10:05 *My Elderly* (P) 10:10 *My Elderly* (P) 10:15 *My Elderly* (P) 10:20 *My Elderly* (P) 10:25 *My Elderly* (P) 10:30 *My Elderly* (P) 10:35 *My Elderly* (P) 10:40 *My Elderly* (P) 10:45 *My Elderly* (P) 10:50 *My Elderly* (P) 10:55 *My Elderly* (P) 11:00 *My Elderly* (P) 11:05 *My Elderly* (P) 11:10 *My Elderly* (P) 11:15 *My Elderly* (P) 11:20 *My Elderly* (P) 11:25 *My Elderly* (P) 11:30 *My Elderly* (P) 11:35 *My Elderly* (P) 11:40 *My 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10 *torom*  
 11 An occasion when one set of blades will  
 compete with another (4-4)  
 12 In the present day I'm making a cane  
 boat in the centre of fields (4)  
 13 The platform is a little too big for this  
 sort of party (4)  
 14 But they don't produce writing material  
 as a result of having been bored (3-5)  
 15 Aside apart, it's different in Virginia (5)  
 12 Exclusive circle having a ring by the Lake (2)  
 13 the result of transplanted anger? (6, 2, 5)  
 14 no reliance on Dina's confidence (6)  
 15 keeping together the list of names (4)  
 16 Not what those who offer exams  
 resistance to vote (7)  
 17 I'm a little bit with a little, I feel (5)  
 22 They're left in the vessel and shelter  
 near the earth (4)

**Least Work's Solution:** Cryptic Answer 1 Rectified 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040

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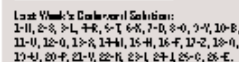
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Using the central letter and at least three others, how many words can you find? Plurals, proper nouns and hyphenated words are not allowed, and there is at least one 9-letter word.

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 10 words = OK   | 20 words = Great      |
| 15 words = Good | 25+ words = Excellent |



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



The latter represented by the question is, which of Benjamin, Jeremiah, Jacob, all Biblical characters.



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| 2004 04 | CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 DESIRE   | 5-door, MPV, Blue, one owner, air con, CD player                         | £3,499 |
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| 2004 04 | DAEWOO TACUMA 1.6 SX         | Blue, great value people carrier, 44,000 miles, air con                  | £2,499 |
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| 2001 Y  | FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX            | 5-door   | £1,595 |
| 1999 V  | FORD FIESTA V TEC            | 1.2 Metallic Blue, 12 month MOT  | £1,495 |
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|-------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------|
| 2006 56 Reg | MERCEDES VITO 115 CDI          | X Long, 8 seater people carrier, Metallic Silver, 80,000 miles | £17,500     |
| 2000 X Reg  | PORSCHE BOXTER 3.2 S TIPTRONIC | S 2-dr. Metallic Blue, FSH, 44,386 miles                       | £10,995     |
| 2008 58 Reg | FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi           | EDGE Metallic Silver, FSH, 45,693 miles                        | £8,995      |
| 2004 04 Reg | BMW 318 Ci SPORT               | Convertible. Metallic Silver, FSH, 70,146 miles                | £7,995      |
| 2004 53 Reg | MERCEDES BENZ C220 CDI         | ELEGANCE 5-dr. Metallic Silver, 85,206 miles                   | £6,795      |
| 2007 57 Reg | MAZDA RX8                      | Metallic Black, 1 owner, 15,983 miles                          | £6,495      |
| 2007 07 Reg | RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT         | Convertible. Metallic Silver, 32,153 miles                     | £6,295      |
| 2000 W Reg  | RANGE ROVER 2.5 DHSE           | Metallic Blue, 104,857 miles                                   | £5,995      |
| 2005 55 Reg | SAAB 93 1.9 TID                | LINEAR Estate. Grey, 70,106 miles                              | £5,995      |
| 2004 04 Reg | RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 AUTHENTIQUE | Metallic Red, 2 owners, FSH, 49,532 miles                      | £3,295      |
| 2003 03 Reg | MAZDA 323 1.6 GXi              | 5-dr. Metallic Grey, 50,244 miles                              | <b>SOLD</b> |
| 2003 03 Reg | CITROEN XSARA 1.6i 16V         | DESIRE Metallic Blue, 2 owners, FSH, 36,502 miles              | £2,695      |
| 2004 04 Reg | ROVER 25 1.6iL                 | Metallic Black, MOT 08 2012, electric sunroof, 60,142 miles    | £2,495      |
| 2000 W Reg  | AUDI A6 1.8 T Estate           | Metallic Green, 96,232 miles                                   | £2,495      |
| 2000 X Reg  | FORD PUMA Coupe                | Metallic Black, 76,135 miles                                   | £1,995      |
| 2001 51 Reg | ALFA ROMEO 147 1.6 TS          | LUSSO Silver, 2 owners, cruise control, 71,465 miles           | £1,995      |
| 2001 02 Reg | FORD KA 1.3i                   | STYLE Metallic Green, steel wheels, 31,832 miles               | £1,995      |
| 2001 X Reg  | FORD PUMA                      | Metallic Black, 76,135 miles                                   | £1,995      |
| 2003 52 Reg | ALFA ROMEO 147 2 Litre         | T SPARK LUSSO 90,000 miles                                     | £1,795      |
| 2001 Y Reg  | SUZUKI WAGON R 1.3 GL          | Estate. Metallic Green, 91,032 miles                           | £1,795      |

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**LOST**—Hearing aid, Wednesfield Town, Friday, August 26. 01902 324794.

**LOST**—Lady's gold watch, Wolverhampton, Sedgley area, Wednesday, August 24. Sentimental, small reward. 01902 495568.

**LOST**—Silver colour bracelet, with stones, lost in Wolverhampton on Friday, August 26. Sentimental value. 01902 674453.

## personal

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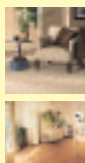
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# sport

## Bewdley made to suffer the drop

Worcester Nomads (16pts) 275-7, Bewdley (9pts) 223-9. Draw

REDDITCH'S win at Worcester condemned Bewdley to relegation, but this was another competent display.

Nomads rattled up a challenging total with five of their batsmen exceeding 30, Dannie Rees the pick with an attractive 61.

Jack Mills (3-85) again bowled well, and was supported by David Jones, Ewan Peer and Robert Crane.

Chasing 276, Bewdley's reply was founded on a faultless 58 from Rob Combes which gave the visitors some hope of an unlikely victory.

Gareth Lewis made a pugnacious 38 and there were valuable contributions from Ben Jones Jr, Matt Cowdery and Mike Harris, but wickets fell regularly and Mills and the elder Jones played out for a draw.

**Bewdley (5pts) 245-5, Worcester Nomads (24pts) 246-3. Nomads won by seven wickets**

An off-colour Bewdley team were a distant second to Worcester Nomads on Saturday, ending all hope of filling the runners-up spot behind runaway leaders Pedmore.

Having won the toss, Bewdley seconds got off to a sound start with the bat, Martin Flack (72) and Ben Jones Snr (40) laying a solid foundation with an opening partnership of exactly 100.

Simon Smith (49) continued his fine run of form before pulling up lame with Phil Singleton (33 not out) also adding some useful late runs as the innings closed on 245-5.

Bewdley's bowling options were limited due to injury and first team call-ups.

It soon became apparent that they would face an uphill struggle to defend such a score.

Malcolm Jones (72) and Ian Milton (82 not out) ruthlessly exposed a lack of firepower.

Worcester Nomads eased to their target with seven wickets and 11 overs to spare.

## Eighty battle out title

EIGHTY players contested Kidderminster Golf Club's Men's Invitation Day with Peter Fisher and Phil Smith winning the contest, played as a Betterball Stableford.

They scored 47 points, one ahead of Mike Bryce and Ivan Knezovich with Mark Dudley and Russ Moore third on 45.

In the ladies' section, Wendy Ray won the Vale Salver by defeating Ann Billingham in a play-off.

**Medal Results. Division One:** 1 Yvonne Foley 86-13-73 nett, 2 Bridgette Turlock 98-24-74. **Division Two:** 1 Gill Sanderson 100-28-72, 2 Shirley Caswell 100-27-73.

**Final Medal Results. Silver Division:** 1 Yvonne Foley 73, 2 Karen Greenfield 74. **Bronze Division One:** 1 Shirley Caswell 73, 2 Lillian Weaver 76. **Bronze Division Two:** Wyn Brine and Pat Clarke both scored 83 and will play off.

## Two make hundreds in one-sided victory

CHAMPIONS Stourbridge crushed pointless Oldswinford in **Division One** of the Worcestershire Cricket League with hundreds from Josh Banks and Andy Alexander, after previously having only one century this season.

Pershore stayed second with a win over similarly pointless Pedmore and Astwood Bank leapfrogged Nomads to go third by crushing pointless Romsley.

In the other matches Redditch sneaked home at Worcester to helplegate Bewdley and Bromyard beat Droitwich climb to fifth.

In **Division Two** leaders Coombs Wood enjoyed a victory at Feckenham and now head Colwall, who could only draw with Monmouth, by 22 points with one game left.

Hagley beat Dominies to remain third and could yet pinch second spot as they are now just nine back

from Colwall. Burghill beat bottom side Kidderminster to leapfrog Belbroughton into fourth place but cannot advance further in the remaining games. Elsewhere Belbroughton managed only a losing draw at Wormalow and Netherton beat Malvern.

In **Division Three** Rushwick clinched the title with one game to spare after yet another tough match which they won by two wickets at

Cookley. Alvechurch are clear in second after beating Birmingham and Stourport will probably be promoted.

At the other end of the table Old Vigornians' win over Harvington has given them a glimmer of hope.

Himbleton went back above Lye after a winning draw that ended Enville's pursuit of Stourport and Lye were unable to record a single point at Harborne.

# PRECIOUS WIN EASES THE RELEGATION FEAR

Himley (4pts) 176, Kidderminster Victoria (24pts) 178-6. KVCC won by four wickets

KIDDERMINSTER VICTORIA took their first win since July 9 – and a precious one it was, too.

With two games remaining, they are now 26 points clear of Moseley. Smethwick, already relegated, are the visitors to Chester Road on the final day of the season.

However, there have been some unexpected results lately, and the weather can play havoc at any time. But KVCC have real hope of avoiding the drop.

## It's Moss at the double

Stourport 3 Old Sils 1

A MIXED Stourport ladies second and thirds hockey side opened the new season with a win in this friendly.

After a goalless first half the nets bulged in the second 35 minutes. Stourport took a two-goal lead with a Shelley Tromans strike from open play and then a rasping short corner conversion by Fran Moss.

Old Sils pulled one back before Moss struck again from the top of the D.

**Stourport 3 Old Sils 2** It was a similar story for the combined fourth and fifth teams out.

Stourport had the better of the opening exchanges but could not find a finishing touch.

The visitors, unfazed by their late arrival due to an accident on the M42, attacked with conviction.

But a well-organised home defence conceded not a single short corner in the match.

Stourport went ahead when Heather Griffiths pushed the ball over the line after a goalmouth melee.

Old Sils equalised but 20 minutes into the second half Teri Baron opened her account from the top of the D. Pauline Knott swept in a third and the visitors' reply came a little too late.

Second-placed Himley won the toss and batted first in a bid to get 24 points and maintain their chase of Barnt Green, writes Brian Gittins.

They lost an early wicket when Chris Tranter (17) was caught superbly by James Ralph off Richard Kimberlin. A stand of 105 between Greg Wright and Ben Smith looked to be setting Himley up for a big total but Kimberlin removed Smith for 49 with Neil Pinner taking an excellent catch.

Three wickets then fell for the addition of just two runs. Oliver Wright (0) became Kimberlin's third scalp when out leg before, and Jamie Harris (1) departed in the same way, bowled by Gareth Williams. Skipper Stuart Wedge failed to score when caught by Matt Pardoe bowled Kimberlin.

### Collapse

Greg Wright fell for a very good 80 to a fine catch by Ralph, bowled Jonathan Wright. At 167-6 there was another batting collapse and Himley were dismissed for 176, Richard Kimberlin taking 4-40, Wright 4-39 and Williams and Mansell claiming a wicket apiece.

In reply Matt Pardoe and Craig Wood put on 81 for the first wicket before Wood (44) was caught by Michael Jones off Ahmed.

A second wicket fell with only nine runs added, the Jones-Ahmed partnership accounting for Neil Pinner (3). At 114, two wickets fell. Pardoe (49) was caught by keeper Dhillon off Dan Smith and then James Ralph (12) gave Ahmed his third wicket with Ben Smith taking the catch.

Andrew Kimberlin was joined by Zac Turley and they moved the total on to 160.

Sixteen-year-old Turley made a confident 28 before being caught by Nick Harrison off Michael Jones.

A sixth-wicket fell but Kidderminster eased over the line.

## Harriers cannot tame dragon



Harriers striker Jamile Matt fires in a shot. Picture: Tony Marsh

### Wrexham 2 Kidderminster Harriers 0

KIDDERMINSTER boss Steve Burr saluted table-topping Wrexham after seeing his side suffer their first away defeat of the campaign.

Wrexham made it six straight wins to end third-placed Harriers' hopes as goals in each half from Jamie Tolley and Danny Wright saw Dean Saunders' side maintain their top spot position at the weekend.

"In the first half in particular I thought Wrexham were very good and we never got close enough to them," said Burr. "I think you have to give them a lot of credit, they look a lot better this season with the likes of Speight and Wright who are a handful."

"The goalkeeper who has come in for them has had an outstanding second half as we tested him a few times. I thought we got into good areas but we were just lacking that cutting edge against a side who will be there or thereabouts for most of the season."

### Influential

Harriers never really got going in a first half that saw Wrexham control from the off. The influential Lee Fowler orchestrated long periods of possession for the home side and on 25 minutes it came as no real surprise when they took the lead.

Curtis Obeng raced down the right and clipped a square ball into the path of Jamie Tolley. The midfielder had time and space to drill a 20-yard shot goalwards and Tom Marshall deflected the ball past a stranded Danny Lewis.

The game turned in 60 seconds just after the interval. Luke Medley and Steve Guinan combined to open up the home defence but from Guinan's cross, Medley's header was well held by keeper Joslain Mayebi.

Mayebi immediately released his team and Obeng delivered a right-wing cross for Danny Wright to head home a 48th minute goal.

Harriers looked to respond, Guinan and Medley both being denied by the spectacular agility of Cameroonian keeper Mayebi, who again came to the home side's rescue as he flung himself full length to his right to keep out substitute Jamile Matt's header on 85 minutes.

Harriers were always chasing the game and in stoppage-time Matt dragged a shot wide to deny the visitors even a consolation goal.

## Hancocks lands bronze to start season in style

YOUNG judo star Charis Hancocks started the season off well with a bronze medal at the UK School Games.

The Samurai ladies lightweight, from Wolverley High School, threw her first two opponents, the Scottish and Irish number one players, for maximum points in rapid time and so qualified as top of her pool.

She looked favourite to win the gold medal, but in the semi-final against the Welsh number one was slightly slow to grip at one point and was thrown for maximum points whilst trying to secure her hold.

The Samurai club is staging a series of autumn competitions, including a weekend at Glades Leisure Centre on November 12-13.

### Shoulder

Their flagship event, the Bev Price Teams, is at Walsall Campus on November 27. The club is investigating taking the Bev Teams to the Glades next year, which will depend if enough contest areas can be fitted into the arena.

Meanwhile, Kate Walker is rehabilitating after a second operation on her shoulder. She plans to use the Scottish Senior Open in October as a warm-up event before November's European Under-23 Championships in Russia.

Sarah Biles is currently training at Dartford with the British Olympic Squad in preparation for the Junior European Championships next month in Belgium.

Samurai Judo Club coach Stuart Lane is celebrating his promotion to second level black belt. Hetty Tinsdale won a bronze at the Coventry Minimon after entering a higher grade and weight band. For details of the club call 0776 1122977 or visit [www.samurai.org.uk](http://www.samurai.org.uk).

## Five for Delo in Stourport victory

Chaddesley Corbett (7pts) 263-9, Stourport (20pts) 266-7. Stourport won by three wickets

STOURPORT firsts took 20 points from their match with Chaddesley Corbett but were unable to clinch the runners-up spot in Worcestershire League Division Three.

Chaddesley amassed an impressive 263-9 from their 50 overs with Matthew Delo the pick of the Stourport bowlers on 5-78.

In reply a 124-run stand for the second wicket between Andrew Siwicki and Bevan Neil (42) set Stourport on their way, Siwicki powering his way to a fourth league ton of the season to finish on 108.

Stourport ran out winners in the 46th over with three wickets in hand. **Stourport (24pts) 277-7, Chaddesley Corbett (7pts) 237. Stourport won by 40 runs**

A five-wicket haul from skipper Mark Guest helped Stourport seconds to victory at the expense of Chaddesley seconds.

Batting first 79 from David Pittaway, 50 by Bryan Colley and an undetected 58 from Mark Dearlove guided Stourport to 277-7. Guest helped bowl out the opposition for 237.

Stourport thirds squeaked past Ombersley to reach the final of the Worcestershire League Saturday knockout. Chasing 203, they got there with one wicket in hand.

## Carolians lose final warm-up

K'minster Carolians 10 Grasshoppers 16

IN THE final warm-up game of their pre-season, Kidderminster entertained touring side Grasshoppers from West London and went down by six points in a contest between two well-matched sides.

Stuart Such and Layton Wilkinson scored Carolians' points with a try apiece.

The tourists' second string also came out on top against a combined Kidderminster seconds and thirds outfit, winning 15-14.

The firsts open their Midlands Two West (South) programme on Saturday at home to Cheltenham North.

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